FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON FISHERY CLOSURE—POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS INVOLVING RIGHTS OF INDIANS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. It has to do with the implications of the ban on the Atlantic salmon fishery. Has the minister consulted with his colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to determine whether there are any implications involving the rights of our native peoples, that is to say, their treaty rights, arising from the ban on this fishery?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, there are some implications. These consultations are proceeding.

GRAIN

PILOT PROJECT FOR USE OF INTERIOR ELEVATORS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Since the federal government is going ahead with a pilot project to determine the feasibility of channelling grain through large interior terminal elevators, I wonder if the minister would be prepared to make a statement on motions outlining some of the details of this program, such as the elevator companies involved and so on?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has already pointed out, this is a rather modest pilot project. I announced some of the details in Winnipeg the other day, as I am sure the hon. member is aware.

TWO-PRICE SYSTEM FOR WHEAT—REASON FOR DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO ONTARIO PRODUCERS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary inasmuch as it pertains to wheat. In the absence of the minister responsible for the Wheat Board, may I direct it to the Minister of Agriculture. The payments that are related to the two-price system for wheat were made to western producers some time ago but Ontario wheat producers have received nothing yet. Can the minister explain the reasons for the holdup and when these payments will be on their way?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is inaccurate to say that Ontario producers have received nothing. The application forms have gone forward and obviously we cannot process them until we receive them. We have tried to set some kind of deadline for the receipt of these applications but we will not be firm and say that is the last day on which they will be accepted. We also have to work out the other details to make sure—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the minister but we have gone beyond the end of the question period. I notice that the hon. member seeks to ask a

Pension Act and Other Acts

supplementary, but other hon. members have not had a chance to ask even a first question. I say that with apologies particularly to the distinguished members occupying the front benches, who have been very patient. I hope they will not hold it against the Chair because the Chair has tried today to give priority to a number of distinguished colleagues who are not on the front benches. Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

PENSION ACT, WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT AND OTHER ACTS

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

The House resumed, from Friday, May 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Laing that Bill C-208, to amend the Pension Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowance Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, to provide for the annual adjustment of pensions and allowances payable thereunder, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. May we have order, please.

[Translation]

Order, please. I recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

[English]

I hope that the important discussions taking place between hon. members might be continued behind the curtains so that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre can carry on with his remarks.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, when second reading of Bill C-208 was called on Friday last, it was my privilege to respond to the brief remarks made by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Laing). As those who were here then will recall, I was most happy to extend to him my warm compliments for the things he said on Friday afternoon. That was an immediate, off-the-cuff response of mine. Having given the matter further thought, I still extend to him my compliments. Of course, I may have some suggestions to make in a few minutes, but may I repeat that there were three things the minister said on Friday afternoon that were extremely welcome.

First, he made it clear that the 3.6 per cent increase in the pensions and allowances of various kinds that are received by veterans, their survivors or dependents, is not to be in substitution for an increase in the basic rates of any of those pensions or allowances. The second assurance he gave, which I regard as important, was that the 3.6 per cent increase being provided under this cost of living escalation arrangement will apply to every kind of pension and allowance that is paid under any legislation coming under the responsibility of the Department of